



STATE OF IOWA

THOMAS J. VILSACK, GOVERNOR
SALLY J. PEDERSON, LT. GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
KEVIN W. CONCANNON, DIRECTOR

August 24, 2005

Government Oversight Committee
State Capitol
Des Moines, IA 50319

Dear Senators and Representatives:

We have been asked by the Government Oversight Committee for an update on the review of duplicative programs within the Departments of Human Services (DHS) and Public Health (IDPH).

In 2003, the departments submitted to the committee a review of collaboration among programs. The 2003 report identified approximately 20 areas where the partnership between IDPH and DHS is important to ensuring that essential health services are provided effectively and responsively to Iowans. The report also outlined why all other programs do not overlap and are distinct to the mission of each department.

At this time, we feel the review for duplication in programs is complete. IDPH and DHS appreciated the opportunity to evaluate department programs to improve efficiencies and expand cooperation. The departments have worked successfully together for many years and will continue to do so. We recognize that it only makes sense to partner with each other and with other public and private entities to make the most of limited funding.

Just as the Legislature reviews and guides state agencies budget and programs, the Governor's Reinvention Initiative and new budgeting process, Purchasing Results, has also required state agencies to focus their resources to provide Iowans the best services at the best price. In response to this, IDPH has restructured to create an office of Organizational Excellence that will focus on increasing efficiency, innovation, and evaluation of results for all the department's programs.

IDPH and DHS must and will continue to collaborate to better identify those in need of service, enhance services when necessary, and to provide better services. The departments look forward to expanding our partnership as the IowaCare Act is implemented and improving and developing health care policy on the recently reorganized Medical Assistance Advisory Council.

Please let us know if we can be of further assistance to the Government Oversight Committee.

Sincerely,

Mary Mincer Hansen, RN, PhD
Director, Department of Public Health

Kevin W. Concannon
Director, Department of Human Services

Cc: Doug Wulf
Sam Leto